

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-34 (cancelled).

35 (currently amended). The method of claim 34 37, wherein said detecting current entries generated by said player using said gaming device comprises detecting base games played on said gaming device, said base games satisfying at least one of initiating said base games using at least a minimum price, initiating said base games using a maximum price, generating a qualifying symbol during said base games, generating a qualifying combination of symbols during said base games, generating a qualifying award during said base games and generating a qualifying combination of awards during said base games.

36 (currently amended). The method of claim 34 37, wherein said querying if said player is eligible to participate in said current bonus game comprises querying whether said player satisfies at least one of inserting a player tracking card into said gaming device, inserting a coupon into said gaming device and generating a minimum number of said current entries using said gaming device.

37 (currently amended). ~~The method of claim 34, further comprising:~~ A method of tracking a player's participation in a plurality of bonus games shared among a plurality of players in a gaming system which randomly selects a winning entry registered to a winning player from a current entry pool, said method comprising:

detecting said player's use of a gaming device in communication with said gaming system;

detecting a current bonus round;

detecting current entries generated by said player using said gaming device during said current bonus round;

detecting past entries registered to said player;

detecting a triggering event indicating a start of a current bonus game of said plurality of bonus games;

querying if said player is eligible to participate in said current bonus game;

if said player is eligible to participate in said current bonus game, including said current entries in said current entry pool and distributing said past entries among said current entry pool, a next entry pool and a predefined number of subsequent entry pools according to a first par sheet; and

if said player fails to be eligible to participate in said current bonus game, querying if said player has relinquished control of said gaming device and, if no, designating said current entries as said past entries;

detecting completion of said current bonus game; and

clearing said current entry pool.

38 (original). The method of claim 37, wherein said first par sheet is a banking par sheet.

39 (original). The method of claim 37, wherein said detecting past entries further comprises detecting entries generated by said player during a previous bonus round that were taken by said player from said gaming system and reintroduced by said player into said gaming system through said gaming device during said current bonus round.

40 (original). The method of claim 37, if said player has relinquished control of said gaming device, further comprising:

querying if said player has taken said current entries and said past entries from said gaming device;

if no, distributing said current entries and said past entries among said next entry pool and said predefined number of subsequent entry pools according to a second par sheet.

41 (original). The method of claim 40, wherein said second par sheet is identical to said first par sheet.

42 (original). The method of claim 40, further comprising registering to a house player said current entries and said past entries not taken by said player such that, if randomly selected as said winning entry, said house player becomes said winning player.

43 (original). The method of claim 42, wherein said house player comprises an administrator of said bonus games in said gaming system.

44 (currently amended). The method of claim 34 37, wherein said detecting completion of said current bonus game further comprises:

querying whether said player is said winning player for said current bonus game; and
if yes, electronically recording an award transferred to said player.

45 (currently amended). The method of claim 34 37, further comprising defining a next bonus round as said current bonus round and repeating the method acts as recited in claim 34 37.

Claims 46-89 (cancelled).

90 (new). A system comprising:

- a plurality of gaming devices; and
- a controller including a microprocessor and memory, the controller being in communication with the plurality of gaming devices,
- the controller programmed to detect a player at one of said plurality of gaming devices, said player using said one of said plurality of gaming devices;
- the controller programmed to detect a current bonus round;
- the controller programmed to detect current entries generated by said player using said one of said plurality of gaming devices during said current bonus round;
- the controller programmed to detect past entries registered to said player;
- the controller programmed to detect a triggering event indicating a start of a current bonus game of a plurality of bonus games;
- the controller programmed to query if said player is eligible to participate in said current bonus game;
- the controller programmed, if said player is eligible to participate in said current bonus game, to include said current entries in a current entry pool and distributing said past entries among said current entry pool, a next entry pool and a predefined number of subsequent entry pools according to a first par sheet;
- the controller programmed, if said player fails to be eligible to participate in said current bonus game, to query if said player has relinquished control of said gaming device and, if no, to designate said current entries as said past entries;
- the controller programmed to detect completion of said current bonus game; and
- the controller programmed to clear said current entry pool.

91 (new). The system of claim 90, wherein the controller is programmed to detect base games played on said one of said plurality of gaming devices to detect said current entries, said base games satisfying at least one of initiating said base games using at least a minimum price, initiating said base games using a maximum price, generating a

qualifying symbol during said base games, generating a qualifying combination of symbols during said base games, generating a qualifying award during said base games and generating a qualifying combination of awards during said base games.

92 (new). The system of claim 90, wherein the controller is programmed to query whether said player satisfies at least one of inserting a player tracking card into said one of said plurality of gaming devices, inserting a coupon into said one of said plurality of gaming devices and generating a minimum number of said current entries using said one of said plurality of gaming devices to query if said player is eligible to participate in said current bonus game.

93 (new). The system of claim 90, wherein said first par sheet is a banking par sheet.

94 (new). The system of claim 90, wherein the controller is programmed to detect entries generated by said player during a previous bonus round that were taken by said player from said gaming system and reintroduced by said player into said gaming system through said one of said plurality of gaming devices during said current bonus round.

95 (new). The system of claim 90, the controller is programmed, if said player has relinquished control of said one of said plurality of gaming devices, to:

query if said player has taken said current entries and said past entries from said one of said plurality of gaming devices; and

if no, distribute said current entries and said past entries among said next entry pool and said predefined number of subsequent entry pools according to a second par sheet.

96 (new). The system of claim 95, wherein said second par sheet is identical to said first par sheet.

97 (new). The system of claim 95, the controller is programmed to register to a house player said current entries and said past entries not taken by said player such that, if randomly selected as said winning entry, said house player becomes said winning player.

98 (new). The system of claim 97, wherein said house player comprises an administrator of said bonus games in said gaming system.

99 (new). The system of claim 90, the controller is programmed to:
query whether said player is said winning player for said current bonus game; and
if yes, electronically record an award transferred to said player.

100 (new). The system of claim 90, the controller is programmed to define a next bonus round as said current bonus round and repeating the program recited in claim 90.